

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
February 23, 2023 – Public Hearing – 6:00pm**

A Public Hearing was held Thursday February 23, 2023 at 6:00pm at Town Hall, 18 Russell Avenue, Ravena, New York

PRESENT: George D. McHugh, Supervisor
Brandon L. LeFevre, Council Member
Marisa Tutay, Council Member
Linda S. Bruno, Council Member

Absent: Stephen J. Schmitt, Council Member

ALSO PRESENT: Candace McHugh, Town Clerk
James Peluso, Town Attorney

Supervisor McHugh called the meeting order and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Engelhardt from the Abounding Love Christian Fellowship Church led the audience in prayer. Supervisor McHugh asked that the record reflect that all board members were present with the exception of Council member Schmitt.

Supervisor McHugh opened the Public Hearing and asked the clerk to read the notice:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF COEYMANS
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2023**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Coeymans will hold a Public Hearing on February 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to consider adoption of Local Law No.2 of 2023. The purpose of said local law is to provide real property tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers pursuant Section 466-a of the NYS Real Property Tax Law. The hearing will take place at the Town Hall, 18 Russell Ave, Ravena, NY 12143. A copy of the proposed local law is available for public inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office during normal business hours. At the above date, time and place all interested persons are welcome to attend and will be heard.

Town Clerk
Candace McHugh

MINUTES BOOKTOWN OF COEYMANS
February 23, 2023 – Public Hearing – 6:00pm**

Supervisor McHugh reviewed the law before public comment. He explained that this would pertain only to Town tax, the County, Village and schools have to act separately.

Public Comment

Dominic Bruno, life long resident of Coeymans and member of the Coeymans firehouse spoke on behalf of the local law. He stressed the struggle of getting volunteers and thinks this would encourage more to do so.

Zachary Collins, Albany County Legislator: County Executive Dan McCoy has introduced legislation for this at the county level and Mr. Collins will be supporting it once it is brought to the floor. He stated 80-90 % of emergency calls are answered by volunteers and there has been a 33% decrease in volunteer service over the last two decades. Supervisor McHugh asked if this would happen by March 1, 2023. Mr. Collins does not believe it will be presented in time for the 2023 roll.

Dominic Bruno added that the Selkirk Fire Department has been lobbying the school board for this as well. Support from additional fire companies would be helpful.

Buddy Irwin is a commissioner for the Coeymans Fire Department and lives in the Hamlet; He stated that if a married couple both are volunteers the couple is entitled to 10% each giving a 20% tax break.

Motion to Close the Public Hearing was made by Council member Tutay and Seconded by Council member Bruno- APPROVED – VOTE – AYES 4 – NAYS 0 – ABSTAIN 1 – SO MOVED

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace McHugh, Town Clerk